THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As part of ASEAN offer, designated airlines of 10 ASEAN countries have been offered, subject to reciprocal rights to the Indian carriers, the facility to operate up to a daily service to/ from four metro destinations in India besides unlimited access to 18 tourists gateways. Similar rights have also been granted to Sri Lanka with the addition that their designated airlines can operate a daily service to two other metros, *i.e.,* Hyderabad and Bangalore. Incorporation of multiple designation clause in our respective Air Services Agreements has also been proposed to all 10 ASEAN countries, Pakistan and Maldives.

Modernisation of Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

2110. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad is being modernized and one more aerobridge is being constructed;

(b) if so, the approximate cost thereof; and

(c) whether Airports Authority of India will add such aerobridges for domestic passengers at other airports also;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate cost of the project planned at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad has not been finalized.

(c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has planned aerobridges also at Varanasi, Srinagar.Amritsar, Lucknow, Udaipur, Guwahati, Patna, Goa, Ahmedabad Nagpur, Gaya, Trichy, Calicut, Coimbatore, Vishakhapatnam and Madurai airports.

Winding up of AAI

2111. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to wind up Airports Authority of India and create autonomous Regional Airport Authorities in the country as a step to give autonomy to the Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to wind up Airports Authority of India. AAI was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1.4.95. The Airport Authority Act was amended in 2003 to *inter-alia* provide for definition of "private airports" and exclusion of such airports from the purview of the Act except for Air Traffic Services and Security. AAI will continue to manage airports (except the private airports), civil enclaves and aeronautical stations. It will also provide Air Traffic Services and Security to the private airports.

Autonomy to IA and AI

2112. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of providing functional autonomy and a level playing field to Indian Airlines and Air India with the Aviation Sector showing signs of revival;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the equity of Air India and Indian Airlines to make them more viable;

(c) whether Government are looking at merging the operations of Indian Airlines and Air India in the long term; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to synergise their operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Both Indian Airlines and Air India have functional autonomy to plan their operations to effectively compete with other airlines.

(b) The question of increasing the equity base of these airlines is linked to the aircraft acquisition proposals of the two airlines.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to merge the operations of the two airlines at present.

Air Services from Lucknow Airport

†2113. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.